

## **Southeast PTO Meeting**

**September 13, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Attending:** Julie Brown, Diane Hutton, Andrea Lennon, Charmaine Strickland, Chrishane Burkhaide, Michael Kelly, Suzanne Kelly, Patty Braithwaite, Karen Mitlitsky, Erin Ballou, Esther Soffer Roberts, David Lowe, Jessica Higham, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Kimberly Clark

### **Fred Baruzzi – Superintendent of Schools**

Fred began by introducing himself to the PTO and explained that he can be contacted either by e-mail or through the principal Norma Fisher-Doiron. Fred Baruzzi mentioned that January of each year the Board of Education (BOE) has a meeting at Southeast School and during this meeting the BOE will get a tour of the school. He then stated that during this meeting the parents of Southeast School will have the opportunity to present to the Board of Education.

### **Steve Robichaud – E.O. Smith Athletic Director**

Steve explained that there will be a referendum up for vote on September 28, 2010. He then explained that a similar project was voted down last year and due to this they have eliminated some renovations. The new referendum will cost a projected 2.1 million and is estimated to cost of 7 dollars a year per 100,000 dollars of property. The project being voted on includes the following renovations to the existing athletic facilities at E.O. Smith High school:

- **Replacement of the 6 lane running track with an 8 lane straight** - the current track hasn't been used for a track and field event in over three years due to the condition. Currently the Track and Field team is being bused to UConn to use their tracks at 5:00 pm and this time should be when the meets should be completed by.
- **A synthetic multi-purpose field within the track** – the location of the field is not conducive for irrigation causing unplayable conditions in dry summers. When this field is completed E.O. Smith Athletics will gain 30 more days of use.
- **Resurfacing of the existing tennis courts** – Spent 6,000 dollars 2 years ago to seal cracks and now the surface seems to be beyond repair.
- **The installation of a new scoreboard, electrical conduit for future lighting and bleachers** if contractor bids come low enough

Question: What is the future cost of the synthetic field?

Answer: The field will need to be swept by a turf sweeper once or twice a week and should last about 10 to 15 years before needing to be resurfaced.

Question: Is the field open for the public?

Answer: Yes, the field and track will be accessible to all.

Question: How did they determine what type of synthetic turf to use?

Answer: They chose the newest type of turf available; currently Eastern Connecticut State University is using the same type of turf.

Question: Does E.O. Smith have a booster club to earn money to purchase the renovations that were removed in the new project?

Answer: Yes there is a booster club but it is not large enough to cover the cost of these renovations.

Question: How is this information being communicated?

Answer: Phone blitzes, E-mails to school systems, PTO meetings, libraries, Town Hall, and The Community Center.

Steve finished by explaining that he will e-mail the information to Julie Brown and would be grateful to anyone willing to get this information distributed. Steve Robichaud's e-mail: [SRobichaud@eosmith.org](mailto:SRobichaud@eosmith.org)

**Senora Hutton** – was introduced as the ESL Teacher and Parent Advocate for non-English speaking families. She will now be part of PTO meeting to help with translations.

#### **New Items**

**Jess Higham** - speaking on behalf of Mansfield Advocates for Children is looking for volunteers to be part of the Storrs Center Planning & Design Committee. This group is working towards trying to build a place for families in the new Storrs development plan. Jess Higham's e-mail: [jjohigham@gmail.com](mailto:jjohigham@gmail.com)

**Patty Braithwaite** – mentioned that Big Y is no longer sending rewards to school but, Stop & Shop is continuing with the program. She will send letters to home and have them available for the open house.

Speaking on behalf of the Mansfield Advocates for Children Patty explained that Eastern Highland Health District is running a survey about Calcium. She made the surveys available to the PTO members who wanted to fill them out.

Patty then mentioned that there will be a Hole in the Wall Gang dinner featuring local foods. The dinner cost 60.00 dollars. David Katz will be speaking at the event free as long as you call in advance and there are a limited number of seats.

Patty mentioned that there will be a display of healthy food options at the open house September 15, 2010 on display to give examples to parents. She then mentioned they will be starting healthy food ala carte on Thursdays soon to give children the ability to get in the school lunch line and purchase healthy items.

**Jess Higham** – There are still 147 companies that need to be contacted for the auction fundraiser on October 16, 2010 and she is looking for volunteers to help contact them.

**Monique Brown** - asked whether the PTO would be looking for Class Baskets this year. Julie Brown said it would be appreciated and would be up to each classroom if they want to participate or not. Classroom baskets will be auctioned off at the Live Auction on Oct. 16. Julie Brown said she would send a notice ASAP.

**Monique Brown** – thanked the PTO for the new quiet time bags because they are a better quality and cost less.

**David Lowe** – brought in a fundraiser option to sell portable first aid kit. The first aid kit company would donate 50% of the proceeds to the school.

**Esther Soffer Roberts (on behalf of Nancy Gifford)** – suggested renting the Trestle Tree out to families as a fundraiser. There were concerns about Mrs. Parker's availability and what kind of liability would be required to do this. Esther also suggested having a challenge run as a fundraiser in the spring.

**Kimberly Clark** – suggested selling cloth Frisbees for a fundraiser. Need to purchase a minimum of 24 Frisbees when ordering. Patty motioned to allocate 200 dollars to purchase the Frisbees and Karen Mitlitsky seconded the motion. A decision was made to sell the Frisbees for 12 dollars.

Equal Exchange has sent samples and the PTO decided have this fundraiser during Christmas time.

**Julie Brown** – The carnival will have artist tables and they are charging 25 dollars to rent these tables to the artists.

#### **Norma Fisher-Doiron – Principal's Report**

Introduced Barbara Zirakzadeh as the Literacy Coach and Title 1 Teacher.

Class Sizes

Pre-K: 28 Students (15 and 13)

K: 51 Students (17, 17, 17)

1<sup>st</sup>: 38 Students (19, 19)

2<sup>nd</sup>: 45 Students (15, 15, 15)

3<sup>rd</sup>: 46 Students (14, 16, 16)

4<sup>th</sup>: 51 Students (16, 17, 18)

259 Total Students

Mentioned that John Reardon would like to speak at a Parent Hour and the PTO approved this.

#### **Andrea Lennon**

Fundraiser that still need organizers:

- Campbell Soup Can Labels
- Scholastic Book Fair (Suzanne Kelly said she would help)

Andrea Lennon and Kimberly Clark will need volunteers to shadow them as replacements for next year

Kimberly Clark motioned to deposit 200 dollars into the New Alliance Account set up for the former Annie Vinton PTO president and her family whose husband/father was seriously injured. Seconded by Suzanne Kelly

Kimberly reminded the PTO about signing the last page on the Facility Request Forms.

#### **Julie Brown – President's Report**

Fall Carnival will be held on September 25, 2010

The Ice Cream Social will be on October 8, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

School pictures will be held on October 13, 2010

The Live Auction will be on October 16, 2010

**A decision was** made to discuss at a later PTO meeting on whether to move the Live Auction to a later date next year to be further from the Fall Carnival.

Motioned to change the Beautification amount to 150 dollars this year because it went over last year.

Kimberly Clark will be filling out the application to get a tax exempt number

Motion to except the Treasurer's Report by Suzanne and seconded by Jess Higham.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm